

B O R O U G H O F D R O I T W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and of the

B O R O U G H S U R V E Y O R

and

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

for the year

1969

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1969-70

His Worship the Mayor: Councillor Mrs. A. Sandles.

Deputy Mayor: Councillor A.W.S. Holloway.

Aldermen: - R.D.N.Fabricius, C.B.E., T.D. J.P. D.L.
- B. Inett.
- R. Jolliffe, J.P.
- J.A.Pittaway.

Councillors: - E.A.Baggott
- J.H.Brackston.
- J.T. De Blaby
- Mrs.T.D.Hammond.
- T.Morgan.
- E.R.Morriss.
- D.Platts.
- H.Roberts.
- G.D.Showell.
- Mrs. M.G.S.Tedford.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public Graham L.Robinson, C.Eng., F.I.Mun.E.,
Health Inspector M.I.H.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Certificated Meat & Food Inspector

Additional Public Health Richard Hill, M.A.P.H.I.,
Inspector Certificated Meat & Food Inspector
Certificates in Sanitary Science
(Meat and Foods)
Liverpool School of Hygiene

Public Health Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

Telephone: Droitwich 2352

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

August, 1970.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

The health of the inhabitants of the Borough remained satisfactory and the small amount of Infectious Disease notified (P.13) was not of great consequence. The low level of Measles may well be due to the introduction of Measles Vaccination which I hope will continue to be accepted by parents for their children. Infective Jaundice was only made officially notifiable in 1968 and I suspect has always been endemic in the town. Its elimination, particularly amongst school children, depends upon raised standards of personal hygiene and I hope these are improving with the provision of the new schools which are being built. The Food Poisoning was fortunately not serious. It was of interest however in that it appeared to be related to the consumption of prawns.

It was with pleasure that we moved into the new Clinic at Norbury House in September. These premises provided by the Town Development Committee for social purposes will have to bear the brunt of the public health requirements of the town until a Health Centre is built. At present Infant Welfare Clinics are being held twice a week and Audiometric, Ophthalmic and School Health Sessions once a Month. The premises are reasonably satisfactory except, when crowded out with small children when the noise is intolerable.

The increase in attendances will only be evident after twelve months' use, but already the number of "under 5's" on the Register has increased markedly (see p.4.)

There is no doubt that a considerable amount of new housing development has already taken place. Chawson I (411 dwellings) was completed in June 1969 and Boycott I (245) in November, 1969. Part of the Boycott II development was also completed by 1st January, 1970 (166 dwellings being handed over at 31st March).

The Housing Manager reports a marked increase in the number of dwellings under his control. It is estimated that 391 dwellings were handed over to him by the Development Committee during 1969 in addition to which there were a few older properties due to Town Centre acquisition. Ten old peoples bungalows in Pridzor Close were also completed. Thirteen bungalows are also being erected in Steynors Close and when the flats in The Holloway are completed towards the end of 1970 much of the pressure for old peoples accommodation will be lifted. It is also encouraging to report that all the pre-war Council Houses have been modernised and a start can now be made on improvements to certain post war dwellings. There was a lull in Slum Clearance but it can probably be said that another 5 - 7 years will see this problem solved.

The pall that hangs over, or is it under, the town at the present moment is termed "brine subsidence". To my fellow Hwiccians living in the land of the Wicii I would say - "Brothers, be not dismayed, your ancestors have prospered since a charter was granted to them by Hening the Monk in the 6th Century A.D. be ye sure ye will continue to do so." Sal sapit omnia!

I remain, Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	2040 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population mid 1969.	10,350
Number of inhabited houses 31st March, 1969 (according to Rate books)	3,196
Rateable value at 31st March, 1969.	£435,078
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1969.	1,711
The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-	

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	87	81	168
Illegitimate	6	5	11

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6%
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	17.3
Birth Rate - England and Wales	16.3

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	11
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	13

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	41	76	117

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	9.6
Death Rate - England and Wales	11.9

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	11
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales ...	18

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	11
Neonatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales ...	12
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births ...	22
Perinatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales ...	23
Maternal Deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

(in accordance with the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases", B List - 50 Main Causes)

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
B.6	Other Tuberculosis, incl. Late Effects.	-	1
B.18	Other infective and Parasitic Diseases.	1	-
B.19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus.	1	-
B.19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	1	1
B.19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine.	2	2
B.19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	3	-
B.19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	-	1
B.19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	-	1
B.19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	5
B.21	Diabetes Mellitus.	2	1
B.46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	-	1
B.27	Hypertensive Disease.	1	-
B.28	Ischaemic Heart Disease.	12	10
B.29	Other Forms of Heart Disease.	2	9
B.30	Cerebrovascular Disease.	2	14
B.46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	-	5
B.31	Influenza.	-	2
B.32	Pneumonia.	5	8
B.33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	3
B.46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	1	-
B.36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia.	-	2
B.38	Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	2
B.46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System.	1	1
B.46(10)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System.	-	1
B.42	Congenital Anomalies.	-	1
B.44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality.	1	-
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	3	2
BE48	All other accidents	-	2
BE50	All other external causes.	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		<u>41</u>	<u>76</u>

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is provided by the Hospital Management Committee. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

(b) Home Help Service

This service has now been taken over by the County Council from the W.V.S. being administered from the Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Street, Droitwich. The service provides domestic help for the aged, in case of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are now 18 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year, the following cases were assisted through this service:-

Chronic sick.	5
Aged (Sick and infirm)	67
Maternity	8
Others	11
Total	<u>91</u>

The introduction of a Meals on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully, 2628 meals being served, compared with 2,106 the previous year.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also three Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge. There is also a Geriatric Health Visitor caring for the elderly in the town.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday and Friday afternoon at the Norbury Clinic Friar Street, Droitwich.

During the year, 4,455 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 4,583 the previous year.

There were 837 children (0-5 years) on the Register at 31st December, 1969 compared with 693 the previous year.

The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioners. A physiotherapist, Midwife and Health Visitors are in attendance.

Health Centre premises are urgently required and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the Town is approved.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's Clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1969.

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course 84 (185)

Number of children who received a reinforcing
dose 136 (280)

(ii) Tetanus Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course 88 (N.A.)

Number of children who received a reinforcing
dose 147 (N.A.)

(iii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course 77 (178)

(iv) Measles Vaccination

Number of children who received a Primary dose 110 (150)

(v) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received primary vaccination 147 (138)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated 19 (0)
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(vi) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Number of persons who received a full course during
the year 71 (N.A.)

Number of persons who received re-inforcing doses
during the year.. 276 (N.A.)

(f) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

- (1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves.
- (2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (3) Special services for blind persons.
- (4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.

(g) Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provision of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act abolishes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

- (1) The provision of residential accommodation.
- (2) The provision of Centres or other facilities for training or occupation.
- (3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (4) The provision of any ancillary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(h) School Health Service

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual activity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation is the routine testing of hearing with an Audiometer, in order to select children who are partially deaf for special investigation.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (i) The District is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
- (ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Ronswood.
- (iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic disease. There are two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St.John's 64 beds. It was with regret that the Council heard that the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board intended to end their Out-Patient contract with the Brine Baths with effect from 31st March, 1968. A meeting was held at the Raven Hotel on 18th January, 1968 in an effort to prevent this, and Mr. Peter Walker, M.P., was commissioned to make representations to the (then) Minister of Health in order to reverse the decision. The outcome was that the contract continued for 2 years until March, 1970, but it is doubtful whether the Medical Trust will be able to continue indefinitely to keep the Baths open for private patients only.
- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Worcester and Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analyses of Water, Sewage, Food, Drugs, etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.

End of Section "B"

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 transferred the Council's Water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gall water tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the Town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory.

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from five separate sources near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all five boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date 15.12.69	No. of Colonies growing on Agar		Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coli	Remarks
	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 22°C			
No. 2 Borehole Brockhill P/Station	Nil	16	Nil	-	Satisfactory
No. 2 Borehole Burcot P/Station	20	1	Nil	-	"
Nos. 2, 3, & 4 Boreholes Sugarbrook P/Station	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	"
No. 2 Borehole Washing- Stocks P/Station	5	1	Nil	-	"
No. 2 Borehole Wildmoor P/Station	5	Nil	Nil	-	"

Chemical Analysis - No's 2 & 4 Boreholes
Sugarbrook Pumping Station.

29th December, 1969.

Colour Colourless
Odour None
Deposit None pH 8.1

Contd/

Chemical Examination

Parts per million

Suspended Matter (Dried at 100°C)	-
Total Dissolved Solids (Dried at 180° C)	215
Chlorine present as Chloride	6
Hardness Non-Carbonate	Nil
" Carbonate	178
" Total	178
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.03
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.9
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27° C)	0.10
Toxic Metals	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	Nil
Fluorine	Not estimated
Synthetic Detergents (as Manoxol)	-
Phosphates (as PO ₄)	-
Free Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	6

(c) FLUORIDATION was commenced at Sugarbrook Pumping Station in July 1968 and extended later. During 1969 the results on the automatic monitor at the works remained steady - close to 1 part per million. On the Distribution main entering the town they tended to be lower fluctuating from 0.68 ppm initially to 0.94 ppm later in the year.

(d) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent but is fairly hard.

(e) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(f) WELL Supplies

Only one house on the Borough Boundary now relies on Well Water.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The second Pasveer Ditch having a dry weather flow capacity of 250,000 gallons per day was brought into operation at Ladywood in January 1969. This allowed a certain amount of sewage to be diverted across Falsam Pits from the S.E. side of the town. The original Pasveer also continued to operate satisfactorily at the Kidderminster Road Works.

Steady progress was made towards the completion of the Conventional Works at Ladywood (designed to take a flow of 1,200,000 gallons per day) and a part was operational by - May 1970. Steps were also being taken to divert more sewage from the West side of the town via the Wheelers Bridge Pumping Station. Ultimately the old Sewage Works will cease to be operational. Although the population of the town is little over 10,000 new development has been so rapid in the last two years that it was considered advisable for the Consulting Engineers to plan for an extension of the Ladywood Works to cater for a D.W.F. of 2,400,000 by 1981. Their Report has been approved in principle.

3. Refuse Disposal

No Tipping of refuse took place within the Borough boundary during 1969. An arrangement has been made with Droitwich Rural District Council for them to dispose of the refuse from the Borough in the future and ultimately it is hoped to use Hanbury Wharf Brickworks site for both districts. Negotiations took place with the owners on these lines during the year.

The Rural District Council made arrangements for the use of a temporary tipping site at Jacobs Ladder, Claires. Unfortunately maintenance costs have been rather heavy on site and on top of them the Borough have had to shoulder transport costs for a distance of six miles each way. This should only continue for about two years however, then the Hanbury Wharf site will be fully in use. This site is only one mile from the town.

The Refuse Collection Service continues to operate efficiently and details are included in the Borough Surveyor's section of the report.

4. Public Health Inspections

A large number of varied inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. These involved problems related to Drainage, Clean Air, Caravans, Factories, Rodent Control. Food Hygiene etc., and details are included in the Report of Chief Public Health Inspector.

The registration of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, involved a total of 132 inspections, but has been well worth while. Shopkeepers are now fully aware of the improved standards required of them and the majority have already complied with the standards laid down.

5. Rodent Control

Unfortunately the Rodent Operative gave up during the year and it was found impossible to replace him. The work has been put on a Contract basis under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector and is working quite satisfactorily. In October the Sewers in the town were systematically baited, 135 manholes being covered, and no major infestations were encountered. A number of dead rats were subsequently collected from the Grit Chamber at the Sewage Works.

1969	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	<u>Domestic and business premises</u>	<u>Agricultural Buildings</u>
Number of properties in the District	3,350	5
Total number of properties inspected	119	1
Number infested by (i) Rats	84	1
(ii) Mice	5	-

End of Section "C"

SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slum Clearance during 1969.

A.	<u>Number of new houses erected:-</u>	1969
	(i) By the Local Authority	401
	(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
	(iii) By other bodies or persons	63
B.	<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-</u>	
	(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act)	132
	(ii) Number of re-inspections	135
	(iii) Under the Housing Acts	
	Number of inspections	133
	Number of re-inspections	81
C.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
1.	<u>Under the Public Health Acts</u>	
	(a) Number of notices served	11
	(b) Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices	
	(i) By owners	11
	(ii) By Local Authority	Nil
2.	<u>Under the Housing Act, 1957</u>	
	(a) Notices served for repairs (Section 9)	Nil
	(b) Number of notices served (Section 16)	9
	(c) Number of undertakings accepted	2
	(d) Number of demolition or closing orders made (Section 17)	7
	(e) Number of houses demolished during the year.	40
D.	<u>Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act, 1957)</u>	
1.	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	3
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	26
2.	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
	(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil
3.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	Nil

CLEARANCE AREA

Bromsgrove Road No. 2 Clearance Area 1968. Comprising of 4 houses was confirmed by the Minister on 15th July, 1969.

End of Section "D"

SECTION "E" - INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of all food premises in the town was carried out during the year. The various categories of premises dealt with are shown below and the number of inspections carried out dealt with in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Licensed Premises	28
Grocers	18
Greengrocers	6
Confectioners	5
Wet Fish Shop	1
Fish & Chip Shops	2
Cafe's	8
Butchers' shops	7
Bakehouses	3
Works Canteens	4
Registered premises for the sale of Ice Cream	28
School Meals Kitchens	10
Institution Kitchens	4
Total number of premises	<u>124</u>

There is one manufacturer of Ice-cream in the town and 27 retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently, and there are three different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The Grading of this product is generally not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. The Gradings of Samples taken during the year are shown below:-

1969	<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
Hard Ice Cream	47	37	7	1	2
Soft Ice Cream	26	16	7	2	1

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, Dealers' Licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Only limited sampling was carried out during the year, but results were satisfactory.

	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
Pasteurised Milk	11	Satisfactory
Sterilized Milk (U.H.T)	2	"
Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk	6	"

Examinations of Foodstuffs

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

44 lbs.	Canned Ham.
70 lbs.	Tinned Steak.
10 lbs.	Corned Beef.
14 lbs.	Shelled Walnuts.
14 lbs.	Tinned Beans.
12 lbs.	Pig's Liver.
10 lbs.	Tinned Peaches.
10 lbs.	Tinned Pears.
6 lbs.	Tinned Apricots.

The Imported Food Regulations 1968

The amount of foodstuff examined as conveyed by containerisation vehicles from various ports to Droitwich was as follows:-

234 tons of seedless Raisins.
104 tons of spray-dried Milk Powder.

Bacteriological sampling of the milk powder at regular intervals has on all occasions revealed 'no pathogens'.

Three samples of shell fish submitted for examination also yielded 'no pathogens'.

Extraneous matter in food

The following complaints were investigated and taken up with the shopkeepers, or manufacturers. It was not found necessary to recommend court proceedings in any of these cases.

(1) Fish and Chips	-	batter.
(2) Corned Beef	-	staining from tin.
(3) Beef burghers	-	staining.
(4) Pork Pie	-	staining.
(5) Loaf	-	mould.
(6) Loaf	-	deposit from oven.
(7) Butter	-	bristle.

End of Section "E"

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1969

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Polio-myelitis	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Infective Jaundice
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	6	-	-	-	-	1	-
3 - 4 years	3	-	-	-	1	2	-
5 years +	3	-	-	-	5	1	1
10 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
20 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	12	-	-	-	6	5	7

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1969 are shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
	M	F	M	F
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1969.	7	2	-	1
Additions to register during the year				
- new cases	-	-	-	-
- Transfers	1	-	-	-
	8	2	-	1
Deductions from register during the year	5	1	-	-
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1969	3	1	-	1

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on two occasions during 1969. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but few applications for assistance are being received.

End of Section "F"

SECTION "G"
ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1967:-

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2,3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	62	33	3
3. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	65	36	3

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Factory Inspector</u>	<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
1. Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	2	-
2. Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
3. Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
4. Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
5. Ineffective drainage of Floors	-	-	-	-	-
6. Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	2	-

Number of outworkers - NIL

End of Section "G"
- 14 -

Borough Surveyor's Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

August, 1970.

To: His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Members of the Droitwich Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my 25th Annual Report. I could write at some length upon the development of the town which has taken place during the 25 years I have served your Council.

It is interesting to cast back ones mind to the end of the War when I took up my duties. Then houses ceased at St. Nicholas Church, there was no Stalls Farm Estate, no development beyond the end of Charles Henry Road or Hanbury Terrace. Tagwell Road and The Holloway were narrow lanes, Alexander Avenue was unmade as was the southern part of Lyttelton Road. The New Witton Estate was not built. Union Lane was a lane with hedges and hen runs, and Vines Lane had green fields on one side.

The Council possessed one refuse lorry, haulage was by horse and cart, and the horse had to be hired.

I would thank your Council for the support I have received during this period of rapid development in the town, an interesting period, full of problems and difficulties. I would also thank my staff for their ever ready support, and the sympathetic co-operation of the other chief officers.

The following is my Annual Report for the year 1969.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below:-

	<u>1969</u>
Accumulations found	11
Visits under Pet Animals Act	6
Visits to Piggeries	7
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains found choked	15
Drains tested	7
Drains found defective	3
Visits to Works in Progress	17
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Visits re: Improvement Grants	103
Repairs and Public Health Conditions	132
Re-inspections re above	135
Housing Act inspections	133
Visits to Factories re Trade Effluents Sampling	26

<u>Rodent Control</u>	<u>1969</u>
Primary visits	32
Re-visits	25
Factory Act Visits	36

Food Hygiene

Visits to:

Butchers' shops	32
Bakehouses	26
Confectioners' shops	16
Grocers	32
Greengrocers	17
Fried Fish & Chip Shops	19
Ice Cream shops and Manufacturers	85
Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School Kitchens	32
Factory Canteens	11
Licensed Premises	25

Visits:-

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	132
Clean Air Act	56
Water Supplies	-
Council Tip	-
Caravans	21
Lido	7
Sewage Works	91
Miscellaneous visits	185
Food Vending and Delivery Vehicles	7
Noise Abatement visits	4
Sewage Works samples taken	54
County Analyst	13
Public Health Laboratory	37
Visits Imported Food Regulations 1968	20

Housing

The Holloway clearance area referred to in my last report was cleared during the past year and work upon 36 flats and bungalows as accommodation for elderly people was begun. This development is to be known as Lullow Field House.

A further group of 13 bungalows was in course of construction in Steynors Avenue supplementing 9 already built in this area.

The Pridzor Road bungalows were completed. This enables 12 aged persons to be rehoused.

Improvement Grants

During the year, the following Improvement Grants were made:-

<u>Standard Grants</u>	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
17, Princes Avenue	£155
10, Old Coach Road	£155
218, Worcester Road	£155
21, Old Coach Road	£105
22, Old Coach Road	£350
9, Old Coach Road	£155

Discretionary Grants

Amount of Grant

80, Vines Lane	£400
82, Vines Lane	£400
58, Burrish Street	£325
64, The Holloway	£359

This is an increase upon previous years.

Council House Improvements and Modernisations

The Council continued their work of modernisation of pre-war Council Houses in the improvement of Albert Street/St. Richard's Gardens Houses, and by the end of the year this scheme was nearing completion. This was found more difficult than the other modernisation schemes had been but again the large majority of tenants were very satisfied with their houses on completion. This left only Vines Lane houses for improvement which had been deferred owing to the uncertainty as to the length of life of the properties, but on the request of the tenants for improvements the Council decided to enter upon a somewhat lesser scheme of modernisation, the defective damp proof courses were replaced and hot water installation provided in the bath room by means of a gas geyser, which also supplied the wash basin and sink. Improvement of all the pre-war houses should be completed during 1970.

The problem of condensation referred to in my last Annual Report continued in some measure. It is interesting to note that as the houses were completed and the tenants became used to the new facilities provided with more hot water available the complaints concerning condensation dropped sharply. In fact, if a graph was kept it would be found that shortly after the tenancy of the improved houses, complaints came from the tenants that their houses were damp.

Following visits, discussions and advice the complaints grew less until about a year after completion they disappeared.

Area of Special Consideration No. 1

This area of special consideration covers very roughly the area of the town known as Newtown in which a large majority of the houses were built about 1900 and served with old Byelaw width streets. These are now outdated for modern traffic. On the other hand they are reasonably quiet, the tenants have a good deal of privacy, they are close to the shopping areas and form a popular community. There are a number of houses which should be cleared, but if the whole could be given a facelift with a general improvement, possibly by the aid of grants, this area of the town could be retained for many years to come. Failing such a general improvement, I think there is little doubt that the area will become 'blighted' and gradually require complete re-development. This question was under careful study by the officers at the end of the year.

Private House Building

Once more it is unfortunate that private building has continued very slowly with only a limited number of individual houses on small private estates. The unexpected hold up in building resulted from a quite unanticipated interpretation of the geological circumstances of the Borough by a Geologist of the Institute of Geological Sciences. This report indicated that within an area of the town roughly between the A.38 and the Holloway building should only be carried out with adequately reinforced foundations. Two Estates were held up for sometime because of this but at both of these work had recommenced towards the end of the year.

Areas East of The Holloway line were stated to be possibly subject to large scale settlement and this inevitably caused a delay pending discussions and investigations by the Borough Council. The Borough Council told Developers that they must satisfy themselves and the Council upon any house building which took place. The Council were giving consideration to the provision of alternative sites.

Highways

Twenty five thousand square yards of surface dressing were undertaken during the year. As a result of the financial circumstances of the Borough and also with the growth of the town it is becoming necessary to carry out some surface dressing every year instead of a three year programme as previously. To date we have adhered to the programme partly because by so doing a much larger area of carriageway is to be surfaced with a consequently better price. In the last two years, by negotiation with a Contractor for the County Council I have been able to prevail on him to carry out work in the Borough whilst in this neighbourhood at the price quoted to the County Council.

A small, but much needed improvement was carried out to the junction of The Holloway and Tagwell Road, making the major road Tagwell Road rather than the Holloway. This has proved quite effective, with a much improved safety factor at this junction.

The Holloway was the subject of a new lighting scheme, which brought this highway lighting up to Ministry of Transport Class A standard.

The Hill End Depot was brought into full use, and this has proved a considerable asset, though even now, with the rapid growth of the town the Depot is bursting at the seams.

Your highways generally have been maintained to a satisfactory standard.

Sewage Disposal

The construction of the Ladywood Sewage Works continued during the year and it is hoped that in the early summer of 1970 this plant will be in operation. The Pasveer Ditch at Ladywood was commissioned in December, 1968 and has continued satisfactorily during 1969 receiving the whole of the drainage from the Princes Avenue area of the Borough. Samples taken through the year were consistently good and this plant gave much relief to the old works. The old works continued in use and gave a somewhat better effluent, indeed on one or two occasions the Royal Commission standard was reached. The Pasveer Ditch at the old works also continued to operate satisfactorily.

The problem at the old works was the disposal of sludge which was becoming very difficult, the sludge beds had become completely surcharged and it is only by the skilfull operation of the Manager that drying is possible.

The first flow from Boycott began and the Briar Hill Pumping Station came into operation.

The new trunk sewer leading to Ladywood operated during the year without particular trouble.

The Princes Avenue Pumping Station is now disused but has not been dismantled pending the completion of the Ladywood Sewage Works, in fact this station at Princes Avenue was used once a week to keep it operational. Similar circumstances exist with three other pumping stations. When Ladywood is fully operational then the redundant works will be dismantled including the old Sewage Works and Pasveer Ditch. Parts of the latter where appropriate will be moth balled and used as spares for the Ladywood Pasveer Ditch.

Trade Waste

A major blockage occurred in the trunk sewer to the Sewage Works as a result of the unauthorised discharge of an unacceptable Trade Waste and this entailed a specialist firm coming to Droitwich to bore through the stoppage and clear the sewer. Because of this, work upon the new trunk sewer in this part of the town was held up and a considerable expense resulted. The matter was taken up with the local firm who made the discharge and eventually they paid the bill.

Notices were served on Industrialists having Trade Waste Agreements with the Borough Council, terminating these Agreements. At the conclusion of the Agreements, it is intended to issue 'Consents'. All proposals to discharge trade wastes are now carefully scrutinised before approval.

Refuse Tips

Tipping continued at the Rural District Council's tip, their Westwood Tip was closed (the Town Development proposals being to develop this area residentially in due course) and was moved to a new temporary site near Fernhill Heath. Negotiations are proceeding with the Hanbury Wharf Brick Company for permission to tip in part of their large pit and these were hoped to be successfully concluded. It is expected that tipping will commence in the pit in January, 1971.

Salvage

Salvage was collected as follows during the year.

Mixed Waste Paper	£296.	7.	0.
Scrap Metal	50.	3.	0.
	£346.	10.	0.

Work Study

The Borough Council set up a Work Study Sub-Committee to examine this important question. The Committee recommended the appointment of a Work Study Officer, who was appointed to commence duties in January, 1970 concentrating at first upon the collection of house refuse.

Liner Food Transport

With the coming into operation of transportation by the liner system, some foodstuffs for distribution in the Midlands are being transported direct from the Docks to a local transport depot. This entails some work of inspection by your Staff of the foodstuffs as they are broken down and despatched.

Nuisance from Smoke and Grit

Complaints were received concerning nuisances caused to residents by smoke or grit emanating from the chimneys from two premises. In both instances the matter was taken up with the firm concerned. The one was satisfactorily resolved by the introduction of the appropriate after burner plant, and the other was still under discussion at the end of the year.

Caravans

Unauthorised caravans were stationed from time to time upon the car park off Queen Street. Notices were served on the owners to move as soon as they were parked, and in each case they removed the caravan in a short period and few of the difficulties experienced in 1968, when caravans were parked for long periods, recurred.

Parks and Open Spaces

This section of the department is undergoing severe strain. To overcome this strain is not at present really within the ability of the Council or the officers, as with the rapid growth of the town and the considerable landscaping of the estates, work of the department reaches a peak during the summer growing period, when it is almost impossible to maintain the public open spaces as one would wish. It is not merely a question of recruiting additional labour, (even if it was available,) for a fairly short summer period, but the labour must be of an intelligent type, capable of using motorised machinery. This in itself presents a problem as the wear and tear of mowers is phenomenal. Stones and pieces of debris of all kinds, often much too small to be seen easily by the operator, get thrown on to lawns, and these quickly cause havoc amongst mowers. One is thus faced with the fact that in the middle of June when the growth of grass is at its height, you can get 75% of the mowing equipment out of action. It should also not be forgotten that during the winter period employment has to be found for the gardening staff.

It is sometimes suggested that the answer is to contract out the grass cutting, but it has been found from experience that the contractor who takes on this sort of work is almost always a landscape contractor as well, and his busy period thus coincides with the grass cutting peak, and inevitably the grass cutting suffers.

The St. Peter's Fields Playing Fields scheme was under serious consideration by your Council, particularly as the local agricultural interest in the fields was getting less due to the residential development all around them, with consequent trespass and general annoyance to the farmer concerned and the animals grazing the field.

The provision of additional playing space at St. Peter's Fields will serve a steadily increasing demand particularly in respect of cricket, rugby football, and with possibly the provision of squash courts and a sports hall. The question of the availability of tennis courts was under examination at the end of the year. The need for further association football pitches is paramount, and it is very difficult to cater for all users, particularly in a wet period when the King George Playing Field is unusable. The very high usage of football pitches and the short period between the end of one season and the beginning of the next makes proper maintenance of the pitches very difficult.

Droitwich Park and the Vines Park have been well maintained during the year, and both bowling greens have been well used, the Clubs being satisfied with the conditions.

The Annual Gala in the Droitwich Park took place, fortunately in good weather and proved a very popular and successful event.

The second Open Tennis Tournament was held, but once again this particular week in May was wet and cold, with good tennis, but very few to watch.

During the year an application was received by the Rural District Council for the use of Westwood Lake for water skiing, the Borough Council were consulted and a demonstration of water skiing on the lake took place. It was felt that this was not an appropriate use and the local authority refused planning permission.

With the proximity to the Borough of this quite delightful stretch of water, its ownership and control by the most appropriate local authority would appear to be very desirable. In this way the controlled use for local residents could be achieved.

Investigation into the reclamation of the old Droitwich Canal continued during the year, and the work done upon this proposal tended to lend strength to the view that there were good grounds for the reclamation of this old waterway, whereby the yachtsman could use Hanbury Wharf as a depot going down the Worcester/Birmingham Canal to the Severn along the Severn and up the Droitwich Canal thus making a circuit lasting some two days, which is a very convenient period for week ends.

Lido

The Lido had a good summer season, the weather being propitious and large crowds attending. There were no particular incidents during the year, and generally speaking the pool and its water were maintained in good condition. Criticisms raised were few, but there inevitably arises some criticism when the only full time labour engaged is perhaps one, or at the outside two people. The Manager has to rely upon casual assistance, which is not always very responsible.

During the 1969 season, the Council operated the Cafe themselves, Mrs. Browne acting as Manageress. The season was successful and Mrs. Browne maintained the Cafe in an attractive way, and I think gave good satisfaction to her customers.

The old dilapidated diving board and adjoining chute were removed at the commencement of the season, and a new stainless steel diving stand, together with an attractive plastic chute was provided.

Office Accommodation

The Borough Council decided to convert the first floor of Norbury House into offices for the departments of the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer and Housing Manager, and Mr. Geoffrey Elliott, Architect of Worcester was commissioned to prepare the plans and obtain tenders.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

